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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,038	04/14/2000	Susumu Okada	32584	9156

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EXAMINER

JERABEK, KELLY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/550,038

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Examiner

Kelly L. Jerabek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,10,11,13,15,16,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,6,7,8,9,12,14,17,18,21,22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on April 16th, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 11-109341 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Figure 19, 1903; figure 22, 2211; figure 25, 2501. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 4, line 5 "2701 camera control display" should be "2810 camera control display". Page 35, line 24 "employable-camera survey section 209" should be "employable-camera survey section 601". Page 64, line 6 "step 2302" should be "step 2303".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3,4,13,15,16,19, and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens et al. US 5,583,565 in view of Kawai et al. US 2002/0067412 and further in view of Sengupta et al. US 6,359,647.

Re claim 1 Cortjens discloses, "A camera control apparatus comprising:
an image data receiving section for receiving from an image transmitter image data captured by cameras;

an image data playback section for display, on a screen, the received images"
(col. 24, lines 25-29; fig. 13);

"a command load section for loading the coordinates of a location in the control region designated by an operator;

a control command conversion section for converting information about the coordinates loaded by the command load section, into a control command signal capable of being used for controlling the cameras; and

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a control command transmission section for transmitting the converted control command signal to the image transmitter”(col. 15, lines 6-13).

Cortjens does not disclose a camera control area display section as claimed, but does disclose the limitations described above. However, camera control area displays are well known and used in the art as evidenced in Kawai (fig. 2).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Cortjens and Kawai as a whole, it would have been obvious to modify Cortjens to include a camera control area display as taught in Kawai. Doing so would provide a method for controlling the cameras as well as displaying camera location and orientation.

Cortjens in view of Kawai does not disclose a camera-to-be-operated determination section for determining a camera optimal for shooting the designated location as claimed, but does disclose the limitations described above. However, automatic camera selection is well known and used in the art as evidenced in Sengupta (col. 3, lines 60-65).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Cortjens, Kawai, and Sengupta as a whole, it would have been obvious to modify Cortjens and Kawai to include a automatic camera selection as taught in Sengupta. Doing so would provide a method for automatically selecting a camera from a plurality of cameras in order to view a user-specified area.

Re claim 3, as discussed above relative to claim 1 Sengupta describes a “camera-to-be-operated” determination section. As a part of this system, Sengupta also

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includes a survey section that stores positions of impediments and removes from consideration any camera that is incapable of shooting the designated location (fig. 1: 160; col. 3, lines 38-65; col. 4, lines 27-29). However, stored information regarding the positions of impediments or obstructions is well known and used in the art as evidenced in Sengupta (col. 3, lines 38-65; col. 4, lines 27-29; fig. 1, 160).

Re claim 4, as discussed above relative to claim 3 Sengupta describes a survey section that stores positions of impediments and removes from consideration any camera that is incapable of shooting the designated location (fig. 1: 160; col. 3, lines 38-65; col. 4, lines 27-29). In addition, the described survey section also displays any impediments in the area where the cameras are disposed as recited in claim 4.

Claim 13, see claim 1.

Claim 15, see claim 3.

Claim 16, see claim 4.

Claim 19, see claim 3.

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Re claim 20, as discussed above relative to claim 19 Kawai describes a "map relating to a location whose image is captured by the plurality of cameras, camera symbols representing the locations of the cameras in the map, and directions in which the cameras are oriented". As a part of this system, Kawai also includes displayed information about the direction in which the operator desires to shoot (fig. 14).

Claims 10, and 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens et al. US 5,583,565 in view of Kawai et al. US 2002/0067412 further in view of Sengupta et al. US 6,359,647 further in view of Tanaka et al. US 6,597,389.

Re claim 10 Cortjens, Kawai, and Sengupta as applied to claim 1 fail to teach "...wherein an image captured by the camera selected by the camera-to-be-operated determination section is displayed greater than images captured by other cameras", as claimed. However, selecting images to be displayed greater is well known and used in the art as evidenced in Tanaka (col. 10, lines 37-42; fig. 16).

Therefore, taking the combined teachings of Cortjens, Kawai, Sengupta, and Tanaka as a whole, it would have been obvious to modify the art as applied to claim 1 to include selecting images to be displayed over a larger area as taught in Tanaka. Doing so would provide a method for viewing certain selected images in greater detail.

Claim 11, see claim 10.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 objected to because of the following informalities: "the direction in which the cameras is currently oriented" should read "the direction in which the camera is currently oriented". Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fail to anticipate or render obvious the following technical features as recited in the highlighted claims:

a. "...wherein said camera-to-be-operated determination section determines a camera to be panned, on the basis of an angle between an imaginary line connecting the center of the camera symbol with the designated location and the direction in which the camera is currently oriented" as recited in claim 2.

b. "...an angular-shift-time calculation section for calculating the time required for the camera to pan toward the designated location; a focus storage section for grasping the focus of a plurality of cameras; and a focus-shift-time calculation section for calculating the time required for the camera to attain a

focus on the designated location, wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section determines a camera which can shoot the designated location in the minimum time as a camera to be operated, on the basis of the time required for the camera to pan toward the designated location, as well as the time required for the camera to attain a focus on the designated location” as recited in claim 5.

c. “...wherein there are displayed not only the direction in which the camera is oriented but also the focusing state of the camera” as recited in claim 6.

d. “...a view-point direction survey section for storing the direction in which the operator desires to shoot the designated location, wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section determines a camera to be operated, from information as to whether or not an image can be shot in the direction designated by the view-point survey section, as well as from the angle between the current shooting direction of the camera and the direction of an imaginary line connecting the designated location with the center of the camera symbol” as recited in claim 7.

e. “...wherein there is displayed information about the direction in which the operator desires to shoot” as recited in claim 8.

f. “...an angular-shift-time calculation section for calculating the time required for the camera to pan toward the designated location; a zoom storage section for grasping the degree of zoom of a plurality of cameras; a zoom-shift time calculation section for calculating the time required for a camera to zoom in

order to display an image of the designated range; and a zoom range display section for displaying, in the camera control region, a range to be zoomed, wherein the camera-to-be-operated determination section determines a camera to be operated, from the time required for the camera to pan toward the designated location after the operator has designated a desired range in the control region and the time required for the camera to zoom in or out for attaining focus on the designated range” as recited in claim 9.

g. “...a zoom-scale determination section for determining the zoom scale of each of the cameras which have been examined as being optimal for shooting the designated location by the camera to-be-operated determination section, in sequence in which the cameras are arranged” as recited in claim 12.

h. “...wherein, from among the plurality of cameras, there is selected a camera involving a minimum angle between the direction in which the camera is currently oriented and the imaginary line connecting the center of the camera symbol with the designated location” as recited in claim 14.

i. “...wherein, from among the plurality of cameras, a camera which can shoot the designated location within the minimum period of time is selected on the basis of the time required for the camera to pan toward the designated location from the direction in which the camera is currently oriented and the time required for the camera to zoom into the designated location, and the selected camera is panned toward the designated location and attains focus on the designated location” as recited in claim 17.

- j. "...wherein there are displayed not only the direction in which the camera is oriented but also the focusing state of the camera" as recited in claim 18.
- k. "...wherein, from among the plurality of cameras, there is selected a camera which can shoot the designated range within the minimum period of time, on the basis of the time required for the camera to pan toward a designated range from the direction in which the camera is currently oriented after the camera has received an instruction for designating a desired range from the operator, and the time required for the camera to attain focus on the designated range from the range on which the camera is currently focused, and the selected camera is panned toward the designated location, to thereby attain focus on the designated range" as recited in claim 21.
- l. "...wherein, when cameras optimal for shooting the designated location are selected, images captured by the cameras are displayed at respective scales, in sequence in which the cameras are arranged" as recited in claim 22.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application it is recommended that the above claims be written in independent form.

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kelly Jerabek whose telephone number is

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(703) 305-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached at (703)-305-4929.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

The fax number for submitting all Official communications is (703) 872-9306.

The fax number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at (703) 746-3059.

KLJ


VU LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER